

Gloucester

v MANCHESTER SALE

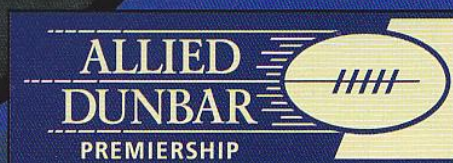
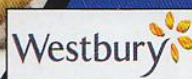
1st May 1999

Kick Off 3.00pm

£2.00



Inside:
Richard Tombs Poster
Richard Ward Interview
Cup Action Specials
and more...





GLOUCESTER



SALE



15	Chris Catling
14	Brian Johnson
13	Richard Tombs
12	Mike Davis
11	Tom Beim
10	Mark Mapletoft
9	Ian Sanders
1	Trevor Woodman
2	Neil McCarthy
3	Phil Vickery
4	Rob Fidler/R. Ward
5	Dave Sims (c)
6	Andrew Hazell
7	Nathan Carter
8	Steve Ojomoh
16	Tony Windo
17	Chris Fortey
18	R. Ward/ R. Stott
19	Adam Eustace
20	Laurie Beck
21	Martyn Kimber
22	Rory Greenslade-Jones

Full Back
Right Wing
Centre
Centre
Left Wing

Outside Half
Scrum Half

Prop
Hooker
Prop
Lock
Lock
Flanker
Flanker
No. 8

Replacements

Jim Mallinder (c)	15
David Rees	14
Jos Baxendall	13
Chris Yates	12
Matt Moore	11
Shane Howarth	10
Richard Smith	9
Duncan Bell	1
Phil Greening	2
Dawie Theron	3
DAve Baldwin	4
Chris Murphy	5
Pete Anglesea	6
Alex Sanderson	7
Dion O'Cuinneagain	8
Paul Knight	16
Barrie-John Mather	17
Pat Sanderson	18
Andy Whittle	19
Simon Mills	20
Phil Winstanley	21
Steve Diamond	22

Referee:
Stuart Piercy

Touch Judges:
T. Fisher
A. Reay

From The Team Manager

Welcome to Kingsholm for this afternoon's game against Manchester Sale. The meeting between Gloucester and Sale in the C&G Cup back in March was one of the most exciting games of rugby played at Kingsholm this season and I hope today's game will provide as much entertainment. Both sides will be able to field their international players and so, if anything, the standard should be even higher. The game in March was one in which we fought back well from a difficult start and I expect the lads to show the same determination this afternoon.

Before I go any further, I feel that I must congratulate the team and supporters



alike for all their efforts in the Cheltenham and Gloucester and Tetley Bitter Cups. To retain the C&G cup is a tremendous achievement and to win the final in the way we did makes it even more pleasing. We did not let Bedford play to their strengths and I think it is fair to say that we looked a better side than them throughout the game. A win of this sort has lifted the spirits of everyone at the club. The trophy itself will occupy its place in the cabinet for another year! This is not to say that we were not all very disappointed not to be able to go to Twickenham in the Tetley Bitter Cup. However, we must put that defeat behind us and concentrate on our remaining league matches.

As you will have heard, Junior Paramore signed for Gloucester this week. Junior is a fantastic player with a great deal of experience at club and international level and will, I hope, prove an excellent addition to the squad. When all the players in the back row are fit I think you will agree with

me that it is a line-up more than able to take on the best in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. I hope you will all make Junior feel as welcome as his cousin Terry Fanolua and we can all look forward to seeing them both in action soon.

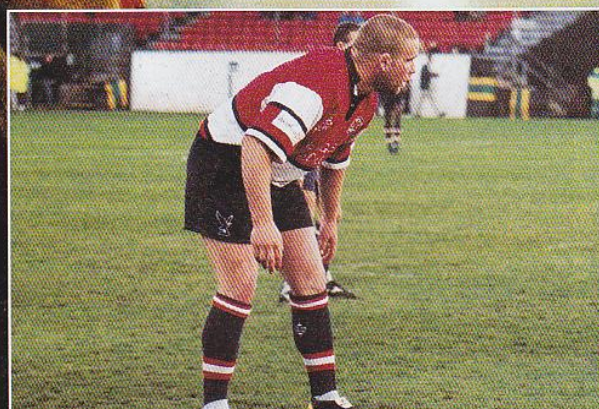
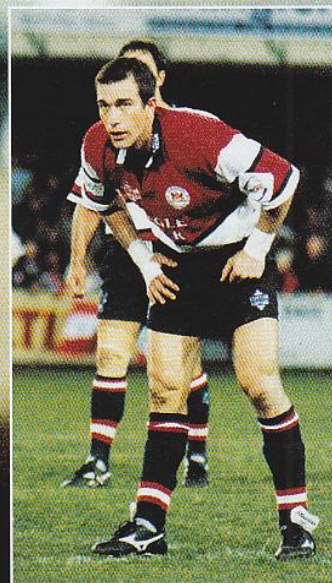
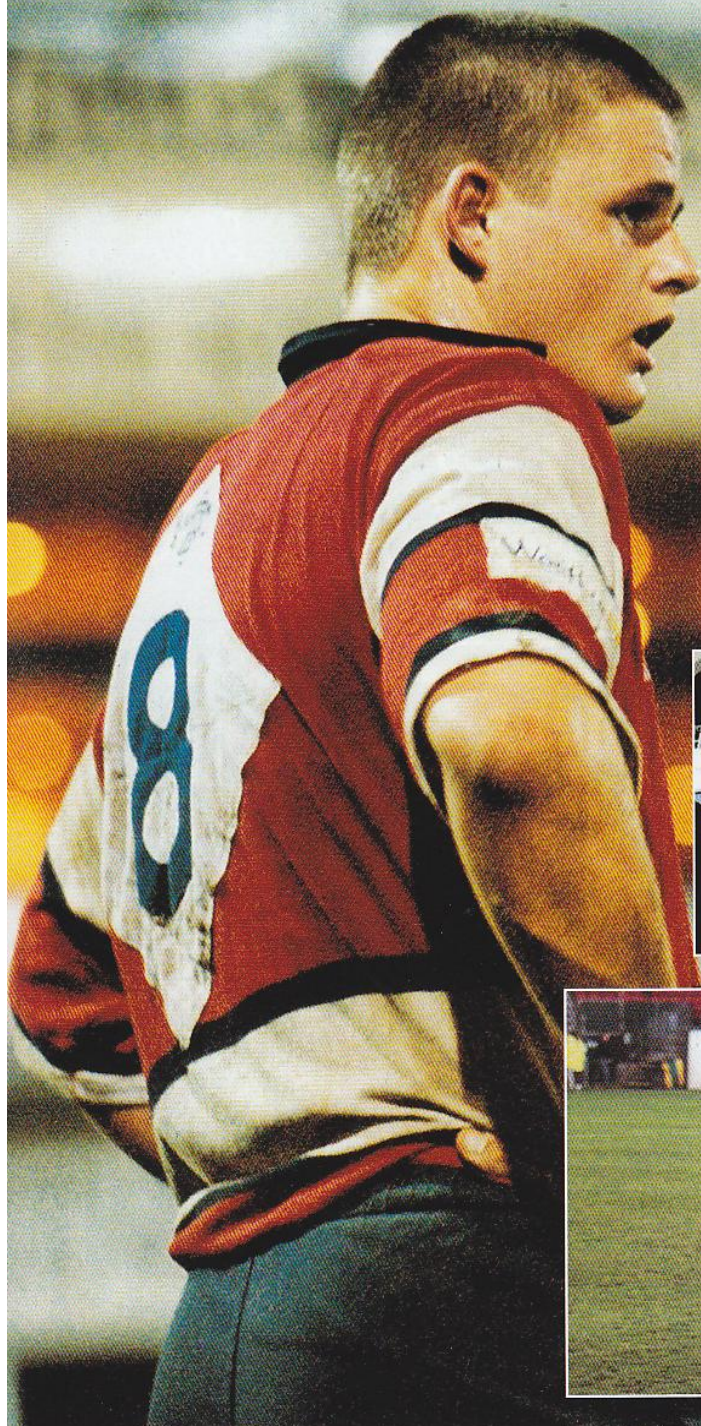
As this season is drawing to a close, I think we will all look back on it as one which has had its fair share of ups and downs. I'm sure I won't have to remind you of the difficult times we have been through but I believe we are entering a new era at the club. The C&G victory shows that we have not lost the kind of spirit that has made Gloucester famous and if we can produce that kind of effort more consistently in the future then I am sure we will achieve the kind of success we are all looking for.

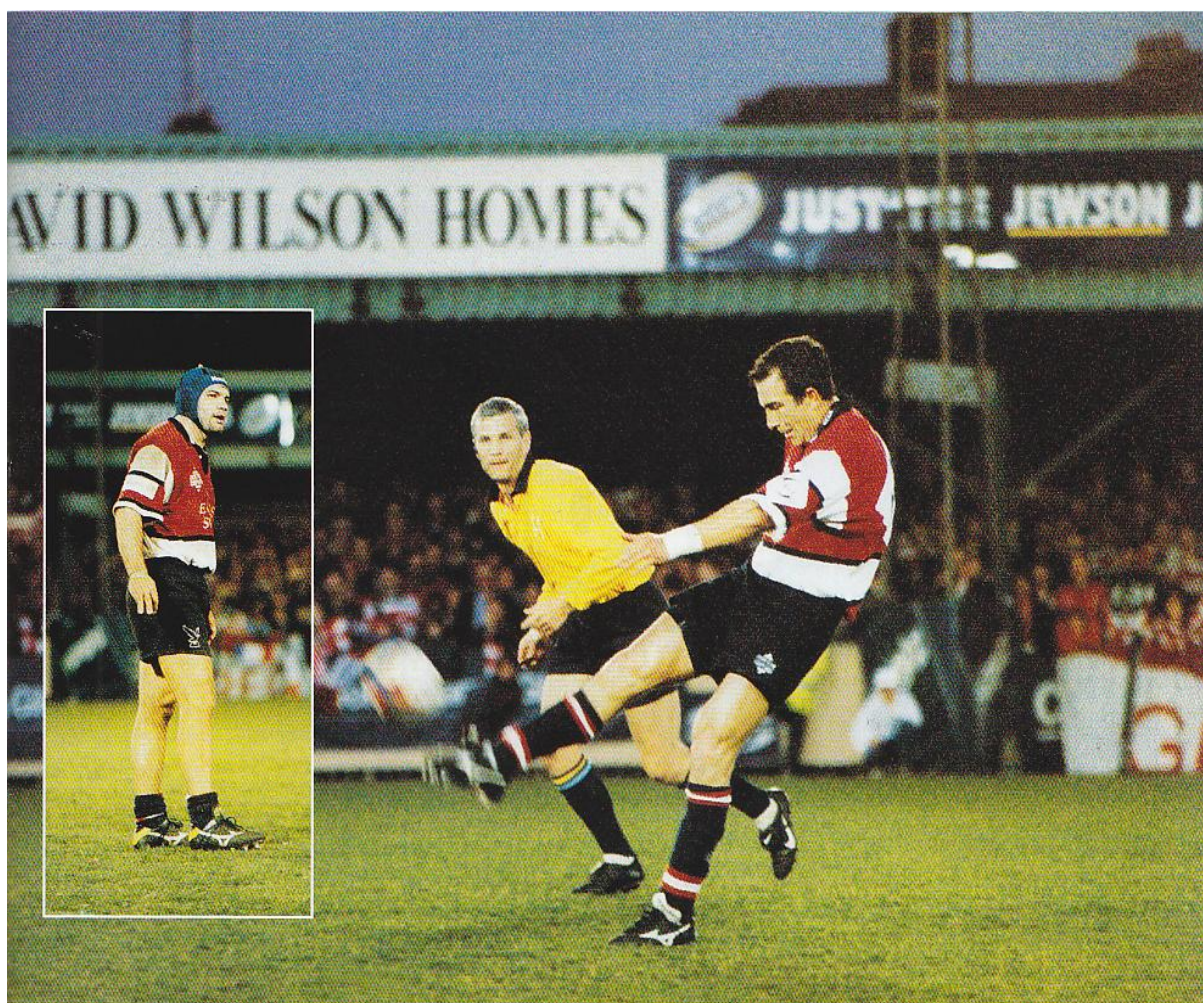
Enjoy this afternoon's game,

John Fidler



C&G Final





Peter Arnold

Decider

"Third time pays for all", goes the old saying, and you could certainly apply it to today's get-together. I don't have to remind you that Manchester Sale's last visit to Kingsholm provided one of the most pulsating matches of our home season.

The date was Friday, April 9th, and the occasion was the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup Semi Final. Gloucester won a hugely exciting game at the last gasp. It was a match which Sale thought they had sewn up, but an enormous effort, especially by the forwards, in the second half pinched it for Gloucester in injury time.

Incidentally, it was also the last Senior Fifteen game we had at Kingsholm, so it's been a long time between drinks, as they say.

Of course, it has to be said that that game was played between two sides depleted by International calls, and was none the worse for that in terms of

excitement. However if you look at the previous fixture, at Heywood Road back in December, when both sides were virtually at full strength, a different story emerges. Gloucester went down by 26 points to 10, and to be brutally frank, I thought that the scoreline flattered us a little. That was an away match of course, and it will be interesting to see how the 'Kingsholm factor' influences events.

Personally, I always enjoy the visits of Sale to Kingsholm. There is a sense of affinity between the two clubs, both of whom play on real rugby grounds in front of genuine supporters who have been shouting for their sides for generations.

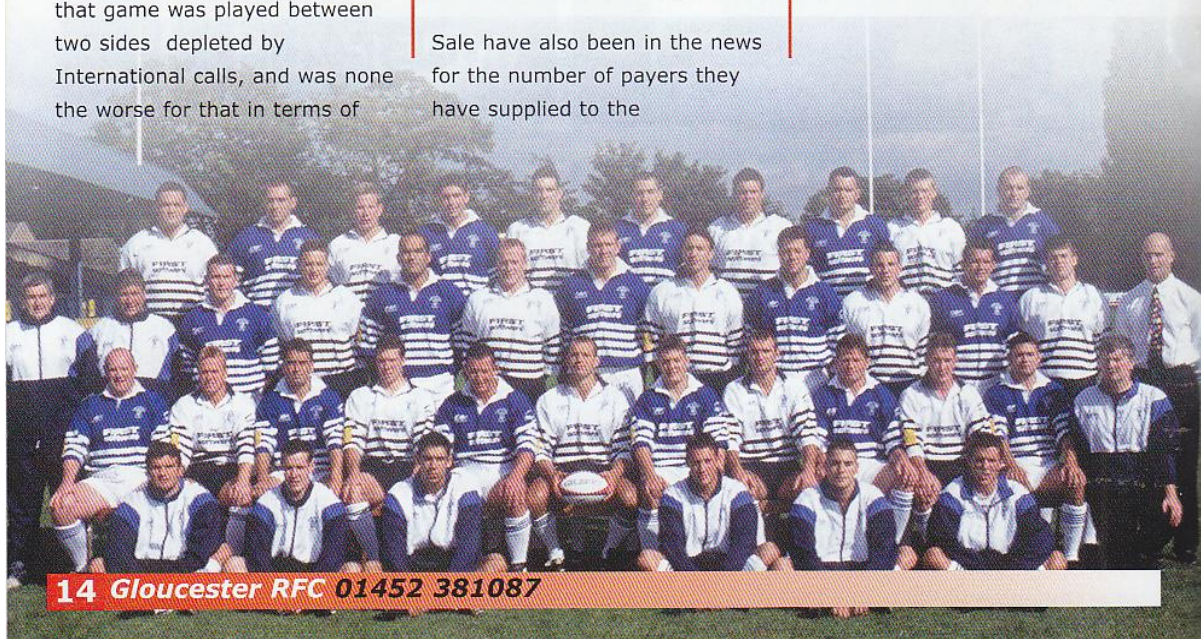
Less happy is the similarity of events off the field. Neither side has the same high-profile coach as they started the season with.

Sale have also been in the news for the number of payers they have supplied to the

International ranks this season, and I'm the last person in the world to deny the quality of such players as Messrs. Rees, Hanley, Howarth and Mather. However, I have always admired today's welcome and formidable visitors for their solid element of unsung heroes. We do seem to have been watching the likes of Jim Mallinder and Jos Baxendale for years, and admirable competitors they are, too.

The other thing to remember is that Gloucester and Manchester Sale are uncomfortably close to each other in the Premiership table. Both sides, therefore, will desperately want to win this one.

All things considered, this should be a fascinating encounter. We hope all our visitors, players, officials and supporters, have a highly enjoyable day out with us.



Peter Arnold

Torture For Terry

Terry Fanolua's knee injury endured during the Wasps game, looked nasty right from the outset, and I don't suppose that many of us were too surprised at the news that we've seen the last of him for the season.

It's rotten bad luck all the same, primarily for the chap himself of course, and we wish him the speediest possible recovery. But don't you think we have been particularly unlucky with injuries this year? You don't expect to get through a season without your fair share of fractured players, of course, but we haven't just had to deal with an unusually high number of them, but they seem to have been occurring just where we can least afford them.



'Tezza's' latest misfortune provides a case in point. We had just

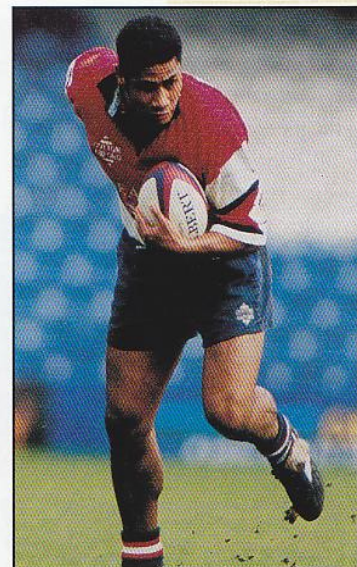
welcomed the return of Richard Tombs from his lengthy lay-off, when down goes his midfield partner. Ally that to the fact that International commitments deprived us of Terry Fanolua's considerable services for the first month of the season, and it becomes apparent that we have only been able to call upon the centre partnership that proved so effective last year for a fraction of the current campaign. That's not just bad luck: it's malevolent intervention.

The strategically damaging injury count has been apparent all season. Our one current international player, who had earned favourable comment from all over the world, at the start of the season, was prop forward Phil Vickery. His neck injury has virtually obliterated this season for him, and placed serious doubt over a World Cup place which had seemed a certainty back in September. Andy Deacon, supplemented on occasion by Adey Powles, have worked wonders, but you have to miss a player like 'Vicks'. It's great to see that he's back and, apparently, in tremendous form.

You won't forget, either, that we have lost an entire quality back row in Pete Glanville; Simon Devereux and Kingsley Jones to injury, and that's a bit hard to take, too.

Now, the latest blow has been the news that the highly successful Mark Cornwell has to have surgery for a couple of injuries sustained during the season. Those do appear to be the results of fair wear and tear, rather than a catastrophic injury of the Fanolua type, but it's hard that the season which has established 'Pasty' as one of the most effective locks in England, has to end, not with a bang but with a whimper.

In fact, if you look down the team sheet, there's hardly a first choice player who hasn't been sidelined by injury at some time during the season. We might not have had our most successful campaign ever, but looked at in that light, we've not done badly to do as well as we have.



Gloucester RFC 01452 381087

Peter Arnold

Welcome Back Dino

The Forest of Dean does, of course, have a great reputation for producing tough, durable, prop forwards. Our old friend Bob Phillips, known by all and sundry, (especially sundry), everywhere from Matson to Pontypool as 'Dino', is carrying on that tradition, and then some.

Bob now admits to having achieved the magic age of 40, and yet, who should trot out as a replacement for the County in their nail-biting win over Surrey, than the self-same Dino Phillips! And I'll bet that the fellows out there doing the business in an extremely hard-fought encounter couldn't have wished for a better sight than that familiar chunky figure running out to join them.

Bob is nowadays in charge of things at Cinderford, and the last I heard was due to reappear at Kingsholm in Cinderford's Cup game against Matson.

My favourite story about Bob Phillips concerns the period when

he found himself, somewhat to his own surprise, I suspect, being drafted into the Wales Development Squad. This in spite of his Glawstershire accent which is strong enough to lay paving slabs with. I asked him how such an esoteric circumstance could have arisen.

"Ah well, Pete," he vouchsafed, "I own a corgi!"

I suppose a Forester propping for Wales would be no more eyebrow-raising than a full-back who has played for New Zealand.

Bob Phillips is, of course, your typical Gloucestershire, old school rugby player, than whom there is no higher form of animal life. He'll go on playing just as long as his muscular frame will allow, he will always give his opposite number just as much as he can handle, and will carry on enjoying the occasional lemonade after the match. One thing's for sure: he'll never be short of a game if he fancies one, and it's very good to see that Gloucestershire still has a place for such a trenchant and forthright player.

The old saying used to be that 'if you're good enough, you're old enough'. Bob 'Dino' Phillips is a living example of the converse.

'If you're good enough, you're young enough'.



ALIAS SMITH AND JONES

Talking about prop forwards, you'll remember the formidable Pete Jones, who won a Scottish Cap, and did us a great favour by returning to Kingsholm to help out when a spate of injuries had left us with a severe prop shortage.

Now, I have it on very good authority, that over the past couple of months he has been joining his old Gloucester colleague and fellow Scottish International, Ian Smith, by giving a hand at Moseley.

'Joner' and 'Smithy'. Now there's a combination to conjure with.



Peter Arnold

Good News At Last

This is the first chance I've had to comment on our retention of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup.

One way and another, we haven't had the most cheerful of periods, lately. At last, however, Gloucester has something to cheer about. Make no mistake, retaining the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup is no mean achievement. It may be overshadowed by its Tetley big brother, it may be denied the publicity by the preponderance of International news over the weekends it takes place (Even Katie Coker can't be in two places at once, as readers of the Citizen will have noted), but it's a trophy well worth the winning, nevertheless.

Last year's win was marvellous, of course, and we celebrated accordingly. It even gave us a bye into this season's revamped competition. To win the trophy for the first two years of its existence, however, is something we have every right to savour. After all, it means that Gloucester is the only club ever to have won the competition. This must give the Sponsors, our own 'local'

major building society, immoderate pleasure.

I believe that this is also the first time that Gloucester has won a competition and managed to retain the title next time round, which I don't find too surprising. After all, the reigning champions are always the side that the opposition busts a gut to beat.

The 1998 match, amazingly against the same opposition, was a pulsating end-to-end affair. This year's game was a complete contrast, being based on the traditional Gloucester virtues of sheer pack power and persistence. Even when reduced to seven men by Phil Vickery's white card, Bedford couldn't really cope with the Gloucester forward effort, and they were fielding some pretty useful performers up front.

I was amused by some of the press descriptions of the Gloucester pack's performance. The word 'ruthless' was used quite a lot. 'Formidable' was another one. I even saw terms like 'brutal' and 'bully-boy', which does seem to be going a bit far.

Perhaps there's a lesson to all this. Of course we all like to watch clean running and handling from the backs, but top-quality forward play is also a vital part of the game, and always has been. It's also the area where Gloucester built up its reputation over a century or more, and to forget all that experience, all that expertise, comes perilously close to throwing the baby out with the bath water.

It is to be hoped that the Gloucester pack can repeat the dose over the run in to the end of the season. If they can repeat that fire and passion in the remaining Premiership games, then we might still surprise a few pundits.

All that is speculation of course. What isn't is the undeniable fact that Gloucester are the Kings of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup, and thoroughly deserve to be so.

I think we're entitled to a little gloat at the moment, don't you ?



Plenty To Play For

One comment I read after the Semi Final defeat at Loftus Road was that "Gloucester's season is now over." Frankly, I find that attitude a bit difficult to understand.

To start with, the writer was completely ignoring the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup Final, which wasn't too surprising, considering the generally patronising view which some sections of the media seem to take of that particular competition. It's a pity some people feel that way, because the C and G Cup, in my view, does have a perfectly valid function. It gives supporters all over the country some local interest on International weekends, and also

provides a showcase for aspiring young players to parade their talents. You'll agree that, with the emergence this year of such class young players as Messrs. Wilkinson, Balshaw and Hanley, there are plenty of exciting young players around.

But quite apart from all that, I don't see how Gloucester's season can be over when you take a look at the matches still to be played when the reporter made his ill-judged remark.

At that time we still had Newcastle to visit, today's game is full of interest, of course, and we have Swansea here next Tuesday. That's a pretty fair triple for anyone who loves their rugby.

Next Friday, May 7th, we visit Saracens, who were, like us, beaten Cup Semi Finalists, so apart from anything else, you could call it a 'bronze medal' match.

Then, we finish the season right here by taking on Northampton, who are runners-up in the Premiership as I write, are very old and valued opponents, and always bring a crowd of supporters who are nearly as noisy as we are. Can't think of a better way to close the Kingsholm season.

So any idea that we are just going through the motions before sloping off on our summer hols is

TAILPIECE

Did you notice that the Duchess of York has been appointed to figurehead the Wedgwood Pottery's American PR campaign at an estimated salary of £500,000 a year?

Nice work if you can get it, but why do I mention it here?

Simply because the bloke who made the appointment was Tony O'Reilly, legendary and fondly remembered Ireland and British Lions wing three-quarter.

Now there's a rugby signing for you. No sign of a wage cap there.

simply wrong-headed. I'm sure the players don't feel that way.

And I can't help thinking that this club played for over a century just for the pleasure and the pride of it all, with no thought of silverware or Championship titles. I would hate to think that the new era had eclipsed all of that. If it has, then the great Game has declined into just another business.



Phil Greening runs out for his first appearance at Gloucester in a Sale shirt

Gloucester RFC 01452 381087

Interview

Richard Ward has not been what you might call a regular face in the Gloucester first team this season, but then, blessed with second rows of the quality of Sims, Cornwell and Fidler, it's not difficult to see why competition for places has been so fierce. Nonetheless, Richard has played in an important part in the acquisition of Gloucester's only piece of silverware this season. Thanks to the absence of the aforementioned England A trio, he was the mainstay of the second row throughout most of the C&G campaign, this season as he was last. So, how did it feel

to play in the C&G Final for the second year running - and win?

"It was good to play last year but to come back and retain it was special. The fact that we beat Sale here in the semi-final in a very good game made it even more special. At one stage in that game we were down and out so it was perhaps even better..."

Richard's reply is cut short by shouts from a nearby table. Mark Cornwell and a number of others are playing cards and Pasty makes snoring noises and says something about warts - an hilarious adaptation of Richard's surname.

Anyway, we were talking about

whether the victory was sweeter the second time round...

"I'm not sure I'd say it was sweeter. It was a harder victory. I don't think it was as good a game as last year: it was definitely a more forward-oriented game. There wasn't as much free-flowing rugby as the year before but I wouldn't say it sweeter."

Was it a conscious part of the gameplan to play a more forward-oriented game?

"Well, we decided that we'd go out there and see what they had. From the first scrum we took it to them and we knew then that that was an area in which we could dominate them. It wasn't necessarily because we thought they'd be stronger in the forwards than in the backs but we made a conscious effort there and we make the same conscious effort with most games but on the day we took them apart up front. I don't know why exactly - maybe it was something to do with Phil Vickery coming back, but we played to our strengths and we played well."

Do you think you'll be able to get a few first team starts - if not this season then next?

"Well, I'm still negotiating my contract for this season but I really would like to stay with Gloucester. It's all up in the air at the moment, but I'd love to stay and to get some starts. But



Richard gets stuck in during the C&G Semi-Final

Richard Ward

playing with Dave Sims, Mark Cornwell and Rob Fidler who have all played England A or higher, I know it's not going to happen overnight. I know I have to bide my time and take any chances that come my way. It's good playing with guys like Sims, Cornwell and Fidler because they come back from their international rugby with lots of new ideas which they share with the squad. That makes me a better player and it makes the team a better team. I get on well with those guys - Dave Sims and Rob Fidler I have no problems with. I struggle with Mark Cornwell occasionally - I have to put up with his banter.

Richard senses the opportunity to stitch Pasty up here, and continues, deadpan: "To be fair, I look after him. Without me he would struggle in this club. He hasn't got many friends so I have to take care of him. I pick him up from his house."

On cue, Cornwell shouts over to me: "Don't fall asleep when you're talking to Wardy!" Later, the same gag gets another run out when I talk to Ian Sanders. "Don't fall asleep when you're talking to Sanders!" he shouts. In these conservation-conscious times, it's good to see a club recycling project in such good health.

As part of the C&G team, Richard has had experience of Sale in the

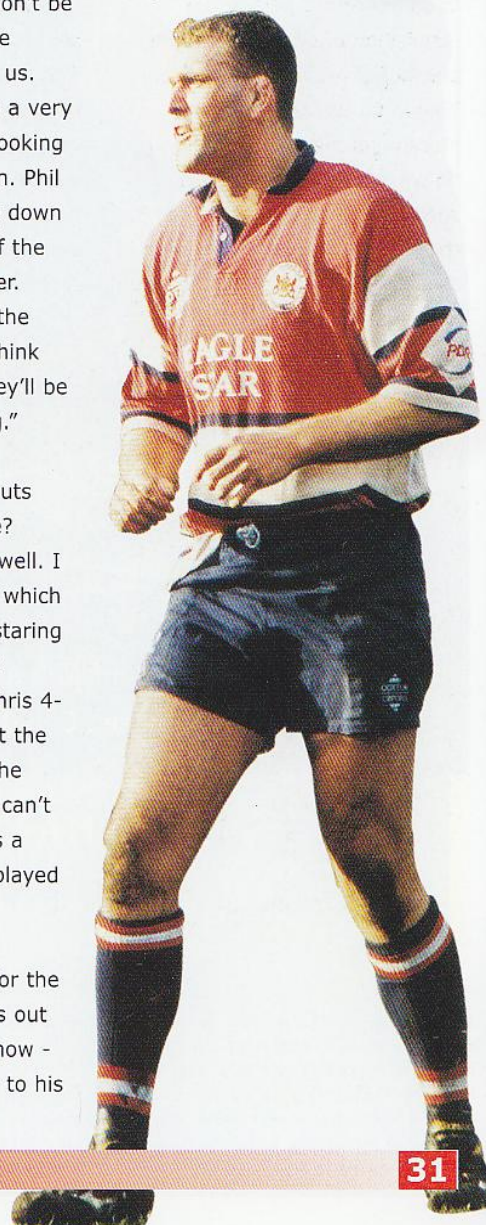
semi-final of that competition at Kingsholm in March. Does he think we can expect something similar from Sale this afternoon? "I know that a couple of times in that particular game, it looked like we were out of it, but we stuck at it very well. It was a very open game, whereas in the league there are different pressures and perhaps it won't be so open. I think Sale will be looking to get one back on us. They came down here with a very strong side and they'll be looking to come down here and win. Phil Greening will relish coming down here and playing in front of the Shed. He's a great character. Every player wants to win the game you're playing in. I think they'll be well up for it. They'll be looking to prove something."

How did you feel the line-outs went against Sale last time?

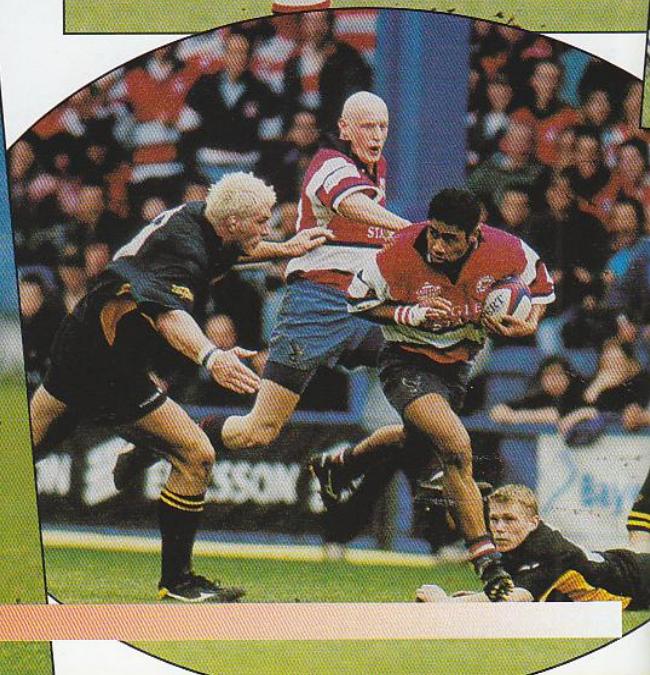
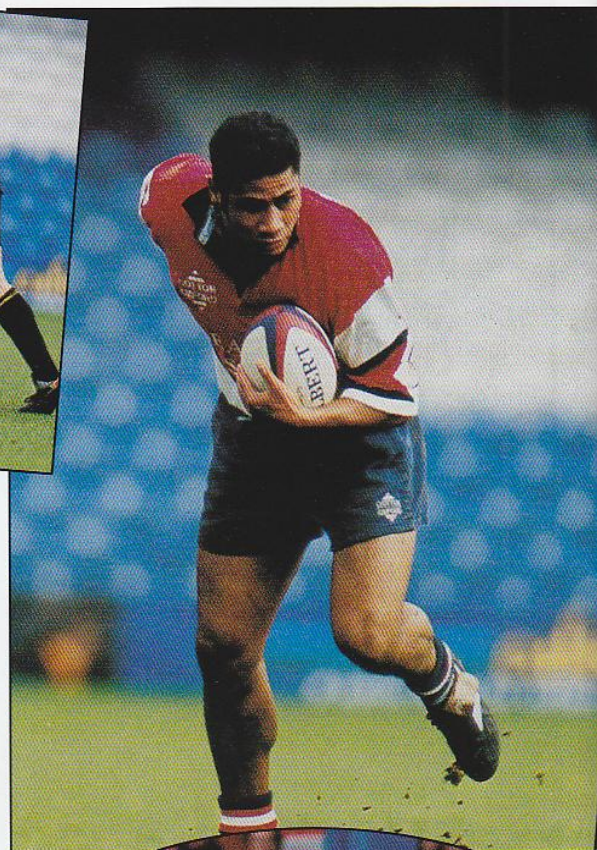
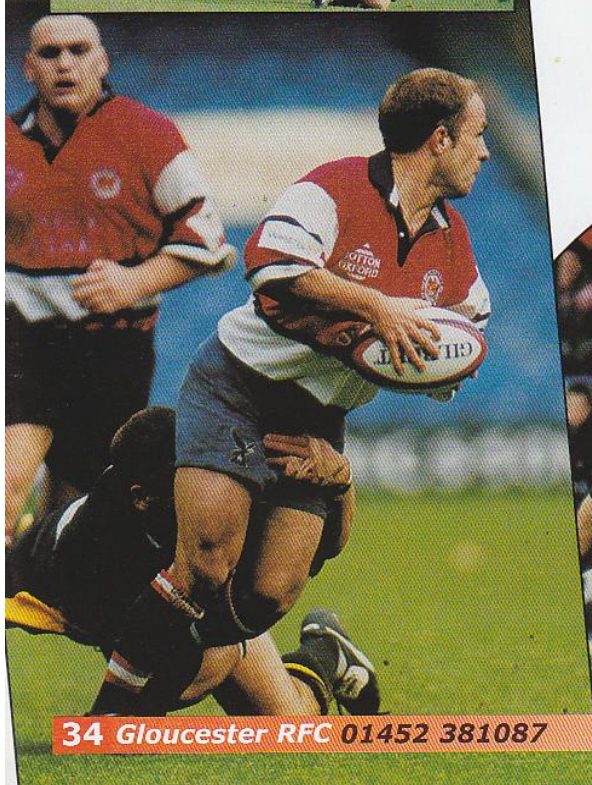
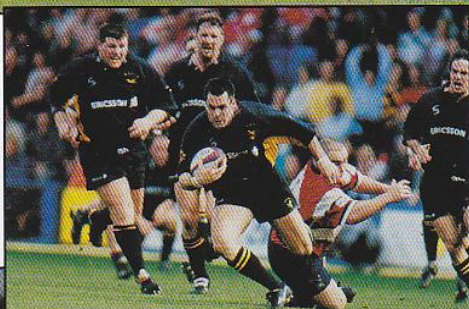
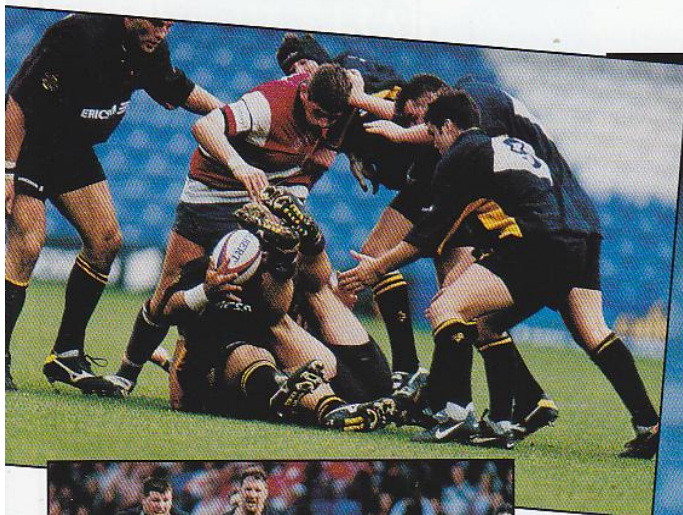
"I thought they went very well. I was jumping in the middle which is a position I'm only just starting to get used to because I'm normally a front jumper. Chris 4-0 hit me every time and hit the front jumper every time. The lifting was superb and you can't ask for more than that. It's a team game and the team played very well."

"I should be in the squad for the Sale game. Mark Cornwell's out for the rest of the season now - he's got a long-term injury to his

shoulder which has been getting worse and he's going to have an operation on it. We'll all be glad to see the back of him, to be honest. I'll be looking after him in hospital. Well, I might take him a bunch of grapes..."



Action Special



Tetley Bitter Cup SF

